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particular ester produced from glycerine and nitric acid however, is indeed a dangerous one; it has the property of being oxidized very readily to carbon dioxide, nitrogen and water—a reaction which takes place with explosive violence.

The purpose of the neutralizer is to simply reverse the above chemical nitration reaction and convert the ester back to the harmless glycerine and nitric acid or a salt of nitric acid. This is the precise function of the can of lye suggested for use to the investigators in this particular case. The sodium sulphide also suggested

serves the same purpose but brings about a slightly different chemical reaction. The application of the neutralizer should be done keeping in mind that the nitroglycerine ester is insoluble in water whereas glycerine alone is thoroughly miscible, hence an application of aqueous sodium sulphide or lye to nitroglycerine would be of no avail. On the other hand, nitroglycerine is thoroughly miscible with alcohol which in turn is miscible with aqueous sodium hydroxide or sulphide so that theoretically speaking a water alcohol solution of sodium hydroxide and nitroglycerine should bring about the chemical reaction necessary to convert the ester back to its alcohol derivative, i.e. glycerine.

However, it is extremely important to bring nitroglycerine into solution where it may be attacked by the neutralizing chemicals. The method suggested in this case was to dissolve the lye or sodium sulphide in a mixture of alcohol and water. However, by doing so this hinders the dissolving potency of the alcohol for the nitroglycerine, by dilution with water. It is recommended that the crevices, hinges and lock mechanism of a safe be saturated with a syringe with pure undiluted methyl alcohol; the saturation process should be continued for about 30 minutes. Before evaporation takes place, an aqueous alcohol solution of lye or sodium sulphide should then be applied. The entire neutralizing process should be continued at regular intervals (three or four times a day) over a period of three or four days. ●●●

Three juvenile offenders were being held in the Mounted Police Guardroom at Calgary, on remand from the city police for a short time. The provost sergeant reported:

"While these urchins were staying with us the matron of the female jail had charge of them. On one occasion she had turned them into the big ward to amuse themselves and after awhile looking in to see how they were getting on, she asked: 'What are you doing, boys?'

"'Please'm,' quoth the eldest, 'we are playing at breaking into a bank.'"

(From the Annual Report of RNMWP—1908.)